

August 24, 2010

Dear Ms. Green,

The World Health Organization has made statements in regards to Waste Management that this is becoming an increasingly complex matter. The effects on the health and well-being of human exposure to both waste materials and to the products of waste management are a cause of concern.

Our community appreciates your time and expertise in reviewing the wide variety of exposures; exposure pathways and exposure scenarios that are used to estimate the health risks.

Only a few epidemiological studies have evaluated sites with respect to the types of chemicals contained and released; however most studies on the health effects of waste landfills in fact lack direct exposure measurement, and rely on residential distance from the site.

I understand that health endpoints are considered in epidemiological studies that include cancer incidence and mortality and reproductive outcomes such as birth defects and low birth weight. Despite the methodological limitations, the scientific literature on the health effects of landfills provides some indication of the association between residing near a landfill site and adverse health effects.

It is important that the adverse effects on health due to nuisance (smell, noise, litter, effect on property values, stress for lack of regulatory response etc) are also considered. These endpoints often escape formal epidemiological analysis however they are relevant for the health of my neighbors and community.

Sincerely,

Sue Barone